LETTER

OF

THE SECRETARY OF WAR,

COMMUNICATING,

In answer to a resolution of the Senate of the 17th instant, information in relation to the muster-rolls of such of the regiments as have been raised in the State of Maryland in the present war, which were composed, in whole or in part, of those who were, at the time of their enlistment or draft, slaves.

JANUARY 26, 1865.—Read, ordered to lie on the table and be printed.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington City, January 25, 1865.

SIR: In answer to the resolution of the Senate of the 17th instant, calling for muster-in rolls "of such of the regiments as have been raised in the State of Maryland in the present war, which were composed, in whole or in part, of those who were, at the time of their enlistment or draft, slaves," I have the honor to state that it has been the uniform practice of this department not to furnish copies of such rolls, on account of the facilities which they would afford for the perpetration of frauds upon the public treasury. Having submitted the resolution to the President, I am directed by him not to furnish the copies called for, as, in his opinion, their publication would, for the reasons above stated, be prejudicial to the public interests.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

EDWIN M. STANON,
Secretary of War

Hon. HANNIBAL HAMLIN,
President of the Senate.

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